(a) whether it is a fact that though diesel engines are fairly fuel efficient, they can be more polluting;

(b) whether the use of heavy fuels is also a cause for concern to the environment regulations;

(c) whether, till date, there are no laws in place to control this source of pollution; and

(d) what are Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Diesel engines can be 20% to 30% more fuel-efficient than equivalent petrol engines due to the inherent thermal efficiency of the diesel combustion cycle. The main pollutants from diesel engines are oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter. The main pollutants from gasoline engines are carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Regulations have been laid down for controlling pollution from heavy fuel like fuel oil, Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS), lubricating oil (2T oil for two-wheelers). Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified specification of two-stroke engine oil with low smoke effective from 1st April, 1999.

Cleaning operation of major rivers

1008. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major rivers in the country where cleaning up operation is in progress;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose during the current Five Year Plan;

(c) the amount utilised during the last year; and

(d) the details of the action plan drawn to clean other major rivers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Ganga, Yamuna, Damodar, Gomati, Godavari, Krishna, Subarnarekha, Sabarmati, Tunga, Bhadra, Tungabhadra, Cauvery, Khan, Kshipra, Tapti,Betwa, Narmada, Wainganga, Mahanandi, Brahmini. Satluj and Chambal are the rivers included under the Ganga Action Plan and the National River Conservation Plan which are currently under implementation.

(b) An amount of Rs. 675.00 crore has been allocated during the current Five Year Plan for this purpose.

(c) The amount utilised in 1998-99 was Rs. 107.76 crore.

(d) There is no action plan drawn up for any other river.

"Pending Proposals of Roads in Garhwal and Kumaon"

†1009. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 187, given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th December, 1998 and state:

(a) the number and details of proposals pending for clearance with the Central Government with regard to roads of 12 districts of Garhwal and Kumaon division,, the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) by when these are likely to be cleared by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) and (b) The present status of 115 proposals of roads as mentioned in the part (c) of the reply of Starred Question 187 in Rajya Sabha on 11.12.1998; is given below:

(i) 9 proposals have been approved.

(ii) 12 proposals have been approved in-principle.

(iii) 4 proposals withdrawn/returned to State Government.

(iv) 11 proposals rejected.

(v) 76 proposals have been rejected for want of information from the State Government within stipulated time period. However, these proposals can be reopened subject to the State Government furnishing complete information alongwith satisfactory reasons for delay in submission of information.

(vi) 1 proposal is pending with State for supply of additional information.

(vii) 2 proposals namely-Queja Kandara motor road in district Chamoli and Kotbangar Badhani Tal motor road in district Tehri are under consideration of the Ministry.

"Ban on picking sand-stones in Rivers"

†1010. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ban has been imposed on the picking of

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.